

October 22, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20552

Dear Acting Director Mulvaney:

The undersigned elected officials represent New York City residents in the U.S. House of Representatives and the New York City Council.

We write to express our strong opposition to Eric Blankenstein's continued political appointment as Policy Associate Director of Supervision, Enforcement, and Fair Lending at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Mr. Blankenstein has used racial slurs and has expressed hostile views that are inconsistent with the spirit of the Consumer Bureau's fair lending mandates from Congress. His continued appointment threatens the credibility of the Consumer Bureau's work to enforce our fair lending laws, diminishing public trust in the agency.

Mr. Blankenstein's appointment is most troubling because of the Consumer Bureau's origins. The Consumer Bureau was created in response to abusive lending practices that disproportionately impacted homeowners of color in New York and sparked a broader foreclosure crisis in America. Noticing gaps in federal consumer protection enforcement, Congress mandated the Consumer Bureau to oversee and enforce laws designed to "ensure the fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access to credit for both individuals and communities."

In addition to protecting consumers, the Bureau's fair lending work reassures the public that the financial services industry can be trusted because there exists adequate regulatory safeguards and watchdogs committed to those safeguards. Public trust in the financial services industry is very important to us considering how significant the industry is to New York City's economy.

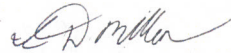
Unfortunately, Mr. Blankenstein's appointment poses significant reputational risks for the Consumer Bureau and the financial services industry, and his appointment represents an ugly black eye on this administration.

Serving as a political appointee in our federal government is not a right or entitlement, it is a privilege that should be awarded to those that have deep commitments to the mission of the agencies they lead. Mr. Blankenstein's actions demonstrate a lack of understanding of how racial discrimination influences outcomes in America and his words indicate he has no regard for the pain still felt from America's racial wounds. Mr. Blankenstein is simply unfit to work at the Consumer Bureau and he should be removed expeditiously.

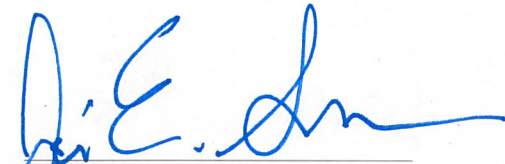
Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



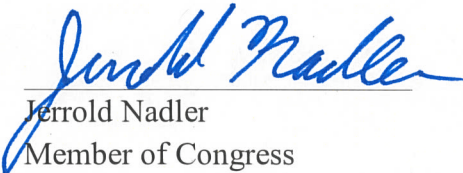
I. Daneek Miller
New York City Councilmember
Co-Chair
Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus



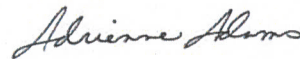
José Serrano
Member of Congress



Ydanis Rodríguez
New York City Councilmember
Co-Chair
Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Adrienne E. Adams
New York City Councilmember
Co-Vice Chair
Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



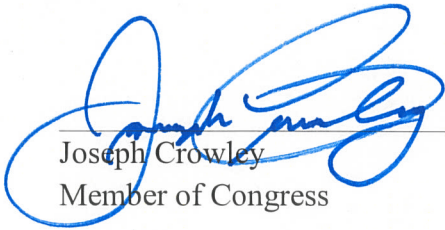
Peter Koo
New York City Councilmember
Treasurer
Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Secretary
New York City Councilmember
Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



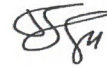
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



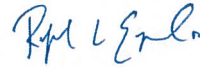
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
New York City Councilmember



Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
New York City Councilmember



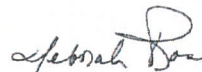
Andy King
New York City Councilmember



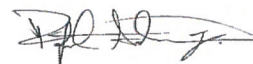
Francisco Moya
New York City Councilmember



Donovan J. Richards
New York City Councilmember



Deborah Rose
New York City Councilmember



Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
New York City Councilmember